

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended in an effort to distinguish more clearly over the cited patents, and other claims have been formally amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. The amendment language in claim 1 is based on the original disclosure on page 10, lines 6 to 9; page 8, line 27, to page 9, line 7; and Figs. 7A and 7B.

Particularly as now amended, claim 1 is respectfully submitted neither to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by Horikoshi et al, cited, nor to be obvious therefrom.

According to claim 1, a shutter is rotatably supported by a pair of shafts provided at both sides of an insulator and includes a guide unit having an inclined surface inclined relative to a predetermined direction in which the shuttered connection and the mating connector are connected. On the other hand, the mating connector include an insertion part having a slanted surface relative to the predetermined direction. When the mating connector is connected to the shuttered connector in the predetermined direction, the slanted surface of the mating connector is brought into contact with the inclined surface of the shutter to push the shutter. As a result, the shutter is rotated to open outwards. The inclined surface of the shutter is inclined relative to a connection direction of connecting the mating connector to the shuttered connector.

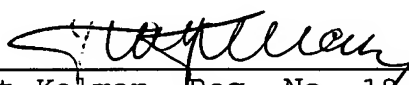
U.S. 2001/0031570 to Horikoshi discloses a shuttered connector and a mating connector with an opening pin 60 having an inclined surface 60T. However, Horikoshi does not disclose or teach that the shuttered connector includes a guide unit having an inclined surface inclined relative to a connection direction of connectors. In Horikoshi, an insertion mouth 58 has a rounded or chamfered surface but does not have an inclined surface inclined relative to the connect direction of connectors. Accordingly, a face pointed out by the Examiner in line 1 on page 3 of the Office Action does not correspond to the inclined surface in the amended claim 1.

In view of the above, claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over the reference held thereagainst, and the dependent claim are believed to be allowable therewith.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-12 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 26, 2004.


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